

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 IO-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

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FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1236

INFO AMCONSUL BELIZE

AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN

AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

AMEMBASSY CARACAS

AMEMBASSY KINGSTON

AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

USMISSION USUN

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EO 11652: NA

TAGS: PFOR, PBOR, GT, BH, UK, MX

SUBJECT: FOREIGN SECRETARY RABASA IN BELIZE ON PEACE MISSION

REF A. MEXICO 10123, B. GUATEMALA 6457

1. INSTEAD OF VISITING BELIZE HIMSELF, PRES ECHEVERRIA SENT FONSEC RABASA THERE ON NOV. 17. AS SUGGESTED REFTELS, GUATEMALAN OBJECTIONS PROBABLY LED ECHEVERRIA TO CANCEL HIS OWN PLANS FOR VISIT TO BELIZE. FOREIGN SECRETARIAT SOURCES, ANNOUNCING RABASA'S TRIP, SAID GOM IS TAKING ACTION ON BELIZE SITUATION (I.E., RABASA VISIT, MEXICAN RESOLUTION IN UNGA) "AS INTERESTED PARTY" WITH "RIGHTS IN THE CASE OF BELIZE." FOLLOWING HIS TALKS IN BELIZE, RABASA WILL REPORTEDLY GO TO NEW YORK TO PRESS FOR ADOPTION OF MEXICAN RESOLUTION.

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2. IN RABASA'S ABSENCE, ACTING FOREIGN SECRETARY RUBEN

GONZALEZ SOSA, TALKED WITH REPORTERS AFTER HE HAD MET BRIEFLY WITH PRES ECHEVERRIA. HE SAID THAT IF GUATEMALA REGAINS POSSESSION OF ITS RIGHTS IN BELIZE, THE MEXICAN-GUATEMALAN TREATY WHICH ESTABLISHES THE BOUNDARY BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES AS PARALLEL 17 DEGREES 49 MINUTES WILL COME INTO EFFECT. MEXICO, HE SAID, HAS RIGHTS TO A LITTLE MORE THAN ONE-SIXTH OF BELIZE TERRITORY. BUT MEXICO WANTS THE DISPUTE SETTLED, HE ADDED, IN A PEACEFUL MANNER.

3. COMMENT: OFFICIAL MEXICAN STATEMENTS ON BELIZE CONTINUE TO BE NOTABLY SILENT OR RESTRAINED ON THE ISSUE OF SELF-DETERMINATION. IN ITS MOST RECENT ARTICULATION, GOM POSITION ON BELIZE NOW SEEMS UNEXCEPTIONABLE FROM POINT OF VIEW OF MOST ARDENT MEXICAN NATIONALIST, BUT IT MUST BE MOST UNWELCOME TO ALL OTHER "INTERESTED PARTIES" IN THE DISPUTE. IT SHOULD BE NOTED THAT POLITICAL COLUMNISTS (PARTICULARLY IN EXCELSIOR) ARE OUTSPOKEN IN SUPPORT OF PRINCIPLE OF SELF-DETERMINATION AND, IN PRIVATE, RABASA HAS TOLD AMBASSADOR THAT SELF-DETERMINATION FOR BELIZE IS BASIC, WHETHER IT BECOMES INDEPENDENT, CHANGES TO SOME OTHER STATUS, OR REMAINS SUBJECT TO UK.

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